POOR DOCUMENT

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Semi-Weekly Telegraph,

ST. JOHR, N. B., DECKMBER 6, 1899.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA

sense has been written by military experts since the beginning of the present campaign. The result has been to create unnecessary alarm in the minds of newspaper readers and to cause the public to take a highly pessimistic view of the situation. We have always mentioned that there never was any foundation for the sinister predictions that some of the military experts indulged in, for a campaign must be judged, not by what some choice army of veterans could accomplish against a British force of less than half its strength, but by what the enemy which the British are now fighting have proved themselves capable of doing. One throughout this campaign and that is able or capturing any position that is strongly held by the British force. Their conduct in the field is precisely like that of a band of Indians and while it appears that they have sufficient courage under some circumstances they are incapable of making an assault upon a fortified position. The attempts of the Boers on Mateking, Kimberley and Ladysmith have all been failures. Indeed so far as Kimberley and Ladysmith have been concerned the recent operations of the Transvaal and Free positions had been reversed and the British had been investing these places they would not have fallen long ago? This fact alone ought to convince sensible people that except in a defensive position where he can lie sheltered from his en emies' are, the Boer is a very indifferent that the silence of General Methuen or the absence of news from Ladysmith should be regarded with alarm. General up his advantage to have time to write long despatches, and, moreover, it may not be thought desirable to give information to his movements which will 'After the Boer defeat at Modder River, unlighthey had some very strong position between that and Kimberley they would fontien. Methuen, in following them, would be severing his communications for

at the Free State capital. tory and shows that the bridge over the the British from their entrenchments, but

will not be in the smallest degree con-

of Gereral Buller will be not merely to re- to to watch the Boer force, wherever it is lievy Ladysmith but to capture half the intrenched, and with the remainder to ince. All of the counties he visited are

the front added a new feature of interest Modder River ever since his last battle. relative friend.

The dity to which the Canadian regi-

stream is a part of the duty with which Kimberley but also that branch eastward to Nauw Poort Junction from which the railways goes direct to Bloemfontein. The Canadian regiment will be assisted in this work of guarding the lines of communication by several British battalions and Australian troops, and while this duty that of the main army it is equally imthe services of their regiment have been have an opportunity of acquainting themselves with field duty at so early a day. The croaker of the Associated Press insituation, colored to suit people who, in their hearts, desire the defeat of the Brit-

disaffected Dutch in Cape Colony having joined the Boers, although a day or two ago it was stated that many of the Cape Colony Dutch who had been persuaded or compelled to join the Boers had returned to their homes. As a matter of fact, however, the population of the districts in Cape Colony south of the Orange river, which the Boers have been occupying, is very sparse, and if every ablebodied white man in them had joined their armies it would not have added two thousand to their strength. It is very doubtful if they got as many as two hundred in these districts. With regard to the fact that the Boers are wholly incap-able of capturing any position that is has turned and the British forces are advancing all along the line. If this advance is not so rapid as some would wish to see it let it be remembered that the British generals are determined to make thorough work, and that they will not move until everything necessary to make victory assured is ready.

the battle at Modder River, which appears to have been a very severe engagement, the Boer position being strong and State armies have been feeble to the last their force large. The correspondent of degree. Can any man suppose that if the the London Chronicle who was in the battle estimates their number at 10,000 and other estimates make their number greater. At all events there were enough of them to occupy a position five miles in extent and they were entrenched with a river in front of them. The British attacking force was probably not as large soldier. It is therefore absurd to imagine as the Boer army. It consisted of seven and a half battalions of infantry, three batteries of artillery, a regiment of cav-Methuen is probably too busy following than 9,000 men all told. Yet with this inadequate force the British undertook to cross the river in the face of the enemy's fire and storm the Boer position. In doing tion as to his movements which will so they lost 452 men, of whom 73 were property be telegraphed to Pretoria. killed. They succeeded, however, in getting across the river and the Boers were forced to retire. We think that this reretre ted eastward, towards Bloemcations, which they had been constructing for a month, because they had an ena short time from his base. With the gagement elsewhere, but for the simple army that he has at his disposal, which reason that they could not hold them any is superior to the Boers in numbers. he longer. General Methuen attacked the is superior to the Boers in numbers, he Boers for the purpose of driving them cerned, even if a detachment of the en. away and they were driven away accordemy should get in his rear, for they can ingly. They skulked off in the night to effect nothing against him. It is quite a place of safety, and it has been stated possible that he may next be heard from that they are now entrenched at a point midway between Modder River and Kimberley. If that is the case they no doubt The news from Colenso is very satisfac- expect to have another chance to slaughter Tugela at that point has not been de in this they may be disappointed. With stroyed. The Boers attempted to destroy Kimberley safe there seems to be it on Tuesday but the British drove them no good reason why the British off. That should mean that the British should go to seek the Boers in their forti-

THE SECTI-WERKLY TELEGRAPH when this advance takes place the object him he ought to be able to detach 5,000 march direct to the Free State capital now represented by opponents of the govand occupy it. This is probably what he ernment, but from present indications up to midnight there was no news to in in the dark in regard to them. His army Ladysmith. Again the rumor of Genknow that it may bear in its boson Town that General Joubert was killed tidings of the death of some well beloved near Ladysmith on November 10th and that he had just returned from his funeral. The Grahamstown Journal pubkilled by a shell which ricocheted and hit him on the head. He expired soon afterwards. I was standing within ten

herlain said "The thanks of her majesty's they have undertaken and carried through been making on the government with and when charged with this shameful suppression of the truth it places the blame of the Sun was the person who mutilated ish. Again he revives the old story of Mr. Chamberlain's letter, it would not be have sent to it, and he knows that the editor of the Sun during the two session he has been at Ottawa coresponding for ister of Railways, and it is thus that the construed as favorable to the government. On the contrary every action of the gov ernment was misrepresented: every statement made by ministers was given a sinister meaning; every base and unworthy motive was attributed to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues in all their actions, so that the man now representing the Sun at Ottawa, if he did suppress the acting in accordance with the metho pression of the truth where it is unfavorciple of the Sun's management, and this

> A very notable illustration of this fac fatally injured, and it is now by no means in the following fashion:certain that he will recover. As all the parties were well known in this province the Telegraph published an account of this affair the morning after it occurred, and since then it has published special despatches from Calgary describing the arrest of the man who did the shooting, have heard nothing of this tragic event. Why, it may be asked, has the Sun supthe dominion government that the B province contains, not even exceptir g the editor of the Sun. After this opur readers may judge for themselves w nether the de spatch of Mr. Chamberla m was mutilated rurposely or not by the Sun.

its editorial columns.

A TRIUMP' AANT PROGRESS.

during the past few days has been very seven million dollars. Its enormous cost much in the interest of a triumphal proare now in possession of Colenso and the fied positions. There is a road which gr ess. He has spoken in Restigouche, in in a current running sometimes ten miles

interests of the city or county that has

the case. The Minister of Railways has

won a high place in the hearts of his

Joubert's death before this. He was tion that as Minister of Railways he than in any other office make the Intercolonial what it ought to fic. Indeed the conditions were such had neither the terminal incilities nor years. Since Mr. Blair became minister of railways the Intercolonial has enterreference to the Canadian contingent, ed on a new career of usefulness and prosperity. It has been carried to Montreal, where it will be able to compete on equal has been equipped with terminal facilwere true that the Ottawa correspondent ities both at St. John and Halifax so that the rapidly growing trade of Can-Mr. Chamberlain's letter, it would not be a good excuse. The Ottawa correspond of Canada do the business of Canada inent, no doubt, has his instructions as to stead of enriching foreign cities, as was the kind of matter the Sun wishes to the case when the Conservatives were in power. These are a few of the achieve ments of Mr. Blair since he became Min-

THE GRAND TRUNK AND MR.

well deserved?

ion of the intelligence of its readers, or it would not have ventured to publish such an article as that of vesterday sentence we have referred to, was simply headed, "How the Grand Trunk Got Ahead of Mr. Blair." The Sun begins adopted by the editor of the Sun. Sup- its article by stating that the new Victoria bridge, which was opened for foot able to its own side is a cardinal prin- and carriage traffic on Friday last, "replaces an old one built forty years ago," principle affects its news quite as much as and that it will be a money earner for the Grand Trunk." This company, it seems, is to charge tolls on all traffic over its has occurred quite recently. A few weeks foot and carriage ways and the Sun is ago a Moncton man, residing in Calgary, very particular to state that a foot passfound his wife, who is also a Moncton wo enger will pay so much, a carriage so man, in the bedroom of his partner at the hotel where they boarded and shot him through the body with a pistol. It was thought at the time that the man was and it proceeds to explain why this is so

The account of the bridge given in the Montreal papers place the cost under\$2, 000,000. Two years ago a dominion subsidy of \$300,000 was voted for the bridge, leaving \$1,700,000 to be expended by the company. By the bargain made with Mr. Blair, the dominion government prys the Grand Trunk \$140,000 a year,of which arrest of the man who did the shooting, the Grand Trunk \$140,000 a year, of which shows examination before the magistrate, and the condition of the partner who was shot. Yet the Sun, which claims to publish all the news, has never printed one word in reference to this case, and any person who is so unfortunate as to have no other paper to read but the Sun will have heard nothing of this trees are the Grand Trunk \$140,000 a year, of which \$40,000 is allowed for the use that the Intercolonial makes of the Victoria bridge. The railway will have per company the interest on \$1,332,533, leaving \$366,666 to be furnished by the company. The tolls will undoubten the paper to read but the Sun will have heard nothing of this trees are the Grand Trunk \$140,000 a year, of which \$40,000 is allowed for the use that the Intercolonial makes of the Victoria bridge. The railway will have recolonial makes of the Victoria bridge. The railway will have recolonial makes of the Victoria bridge. The railway will have recolonial makes of the Victoria bridge. The railway will have recolonial makes of the Victoria bridge. The railway will have recolonial makes of the Victoria bridge. The railway will have recolonial makes of the Victoria bridge. The railway will have recolonial makes of the Victoria bridge. The railway will have recolonial makes of the Victoria bridge. The railway will have recolonial makes of the Victoria bridge. The railway will have recolonial makes of the Victoria bridge. The railway will have recolonial makes of the Victoria bridge. sum and seave a profit. It comes, therefore, to this, that the while the govern-Why, it may be asked, has the Sun suppressed the news of this affair? Simply because the young man who did the shooting is the son of a leading Conservative politician, while the wife whose conduct led to the attempted murder is the daughter of another leading Conservative politician, the most malignant energy of the Grand Trunk railway does not have to pay one cent for the use the bridge for trains. Yet it was shown by Mr. Blair last session that the Grand Trunk Company's use of the Montreal and St. Rosalie section was more than the dominion government that the provious control of the control of the section was more than the dominion government that the provious control of the section was more than the control of the section was more than the dominion government that the provious control of the section was more than the dominion government that the provious control of the section was more than the control of the section was It is difficult to say whether the above statement is the product of dense ignorance or unparalleled mendacity. The new Victoria bridge does not replace "an old

one built forty years ago," but is the old bridge with a new superstructure. The Victoria bridge, which was a tubular bridge, like the one over the Moeni The visit ' of the Minister of Railways to several of the counties of New Brunswick gineer, Robert Stephenson, and cost seven million dollars. Its enormous cost Straits, was built by the celebrated enway clear for an advance for the relief of leads from Modder River to Blomfonte'n, and the distance is less than 100 miles. I. Carleton and in each of these constituents of the sure however that the leads from Modder River to Blomfonte'n, and the distance is less than 100 miles. I. Carleton and in each of these constituents to be unusually strong with wings to length the board finally decided to refuse the length the l sireable. We may be sure, however, that General Methuen has 15,000 men with cies his reception has been such as to break the ice which rushes down the St. the request.

between the grand Trunk and the government would stand something like this:-Cost of Victoria bridge and im-

Net cost to Grand Trunk \$8,700,000 Interest on above at 4 per cent.. \$348,000 Annual rental paid by Interco-

Net annual charge to Grand If we add to the government's rental of man owned a house that cost him \$7,000 hardly think he was getting ahead of the liberal stranger. Yet that is practically the arrangement that Mr. Blair succeeded in making with the Grand Trunk Every railway man knows that it was most favorable arrangement for the gov-

becoming alarmed at the manner in which the city is loosing its export trade and consequently its import trade because of the competition of other ports, especially Newport News, Boston and Montreal. The competition of Montreal is looked upon as particularly dangerous in view of It is estimated the enlargement of the Canadian canals ed more case on the St. Lawrence which next year will There is no d his paper was careful to send nothing to has won his great popularity. Will any on the St. Lawrence which next year will St. John for pullication that could be man venture to deny that it has been be able to accommodate vessels 255 feet long and drawing 14 feet of water. The Erie canal is a mere ditch compared with tarrh, Bronchitis, Astonia or Hay Fever the Welland and St. Lawrence canale in their worst stages, breathe—it does the rest. vet it would cost an enormous sum to en large it to their dimensions. The credit of the prompt enlargement of the canala belongs to the present government Canada, the Conservatives having dallie, with the matter for years.

> The loss of the transport Ismore in St Helena Bay, is unfortunate, but not such a terrible disaster as the Associated Press man tries to make out. She carried 220 men of the 10th Hussars, 170 men of the Field Artillery and 50 men of the army medical corps. She had on board 35 horses. All the men were saved, bu only 20 horses have been landed and i looks as if most of them would be lost Such disasters are inseparable from the movement of large bodies of men and material by sea, and any regret at the occur tion that no human lives were lost. As for the field guns, six in number, they

The Boston Transcript, in an article combats the absurd statements of some of the Tory papers that they are disleval. says of Sir Wilfrid Laurier:-

He has now been in power more than three years and is stronger today that when he first took the reins of governwhen he first took the reins of govern-ment. He is a statesman in the highest and best sense of the word, manly and independent, of broad and liberal views, tical science, a born orator, whose speeches are always clothed with dignity and grace. No colonial premier is mornighly esteemed in the mother country not only on account of his unquestioned ability and unswerving devotion to the crown, but because "he wears the white flower of a blameless life."

FROM SANTOS.

Halifax Does Not Want Any Ship from

Halifax, Dec. 4.-The Halifax board of Halifax, Dec. 4.—The Halifax board of health held an emergency meeting today to consider the request made by Pickford & Black, agents here of the steamer Roman Prince, at New York from San tos, that the ship be allowed to come here and discharge her cargo of coffee. The steamer has been in the port of New York for the past eight days but has not here allowed to discharge owing to cases seven million dollars. Its enormous cost was due to the fact that the piers stand in a current running sometimes ten miles been found on the steamer J. W. Taylor which reached New York from Santos

DR. IRELAND DID NOT Walk Off a Wharf as Had Been Supposed.

Montreal, Nov. 30.-It now looks as if and, who was supposed to have slipped over a wharf into the St Lawrence on the

ceived from Mr. Ireland from a town in Michigan by a lawyer at Trenton, his profession there under the name of Dr

H. H. Gray.

He stated that his object in disappear ing was to get clear of his wife and that he will now seek a divorce from her. He states in his letter that his object writing to Trenton is to prevent Mrs. Ireland from recovering any insurance he had and for which he understood suit

was to be taken.

Mrs. Ireland is at present residing with an aunt, Mrs. Garvin, of London, Ontario, while her mother is making her home with his sister, Mrs. G. T. White, recently married and residing in Toronto.

THE LIST LENGTHENING

More Wrecks Reported From New-

St. John's, Nfld, Dec. 1.-The schr-Vikerson, with a general cargo, is ashore at Cape Chapereau and will be a total loss. One man was drowned.

The schr Dart has stranded in Grates complete wreck.

The schooner Emily went on a bar near here but was pulled off by tugs. She is badly damaged. Theschooner Warrior is missing. It is feared she has gone down in Bona Vista Bay. Her crew numbered ten persons.

HAVE AGAIN RETREATED. The Filipinos Once More Driven from

Manila, Nov. 30.-6.10 p. m.-De spatches just received from Liclo, Island of Panay, say that at 1 o'clock on the evening of Sunday, Nov. 26, the 18th regiment encountered an entrenched force of the enemy at Pavia, who opened a heavy fire. The leading battalion replied and, after several volleys, the 19th flanted the Filipinos, driving them out of their trenches. The enemy retreated to the mountains. At the beginning of the

A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH. New York, Nov. 30.-About 10,000 per

church at Central Park West and Otthe street, this city. Most of the throng were women. The exercises were held in the open air and were presided over by Mrs. Augusta F. Stetson. 'TISN'T ALLUZ THE RAZZER What make de loue scrapin', what ut it is always the me. Catarrh ,than

Tortoise shells as they are unloaded from the ships, are far from beautiful. To be classed as rough they must be just as they were when taken from the tor-toises backs. It is not until washed and scoured with acids that their exquisite coloring shows. The same is true of the from the shores of India and other tropical lands. There is almost as much di

